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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON [illegible]

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1. AFTERNOON JUNE 30 FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE TRAN NGOC LIENG FILED DIA MINH'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN PRESENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 LOCAL AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. MRS MINH ALSO REPORTEDLY PRESENT. LIENG FILED AS MINH'S RUNNING MATE.

INR

AID

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2. IN EXCHANGE WITH PRESS, LIENG SAID HE RESPECTED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☑ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASED ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
P/R or FOI EXEMPTIONS
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MINH FOR HIS VIRTUE BUT DID NOT KNOW HIM WELL PERSONALLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT MINH'S APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR DOCUMENT ATTESTING THAT HIS DRAFT STATUS IN ORDER. LIENG DID NOT DISCLOSE HOW HE HAD BEEN COMMUNICATING WITH MINH.

3. NA ADMINISTRATOR LE CONG THANH CONFIRMS THAT MINH AND LIENG'S APPLICATION IN ORDER EXCEPT FOR CERTIFICATE PERTAINING TO MINH'S DRAFT STATUS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 13(A) OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THANH, MINH'S DOSSIER DOES INCLUDE EVIDENCE THAT HE (MINH) HAS APPLIED TO DEFENSE MINISTRY FOR SUCH A CERTIFICATE; AND THANH'S FEELING IS THAT THIS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY NA AS SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION IN MINH'S CASE.

4. THANH ALSO REPORTS THAT NGUYEN CAO KY HAS ALREADY WITHDRAWN HIS APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY AND GENERAL THIEU'S OFFICE HAS CONTACTED NA IN

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ORDER TO REFILE THIEU'S APPLICATION WITH KY AS RUNNING MATE. THANH SAYS HE HAS ADVISED THIEU'S CHEF DE CABINET TO SECURE SIGNATURES OF BOTH THIEU AND HIS ORIGINAL RUNNING MATE, TRINH QUOC KHANH, ON REQUEST TO WITHDRAW INITIAL APPLICATION IN ORDER AVOID ANY COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM CLAIMS THAT THIEU/KY FILED IMPROPERLY.

5. JULY 1 WILL BE CRUCIAL DAY IN FILING PROCESS. ASSEMBLY WILL MEET AT 9 AM TO HEAR REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL HAVE REVIEWED CANDIDATES' DOSSIERS NIGHT OF JUNE 30. AFTER HEARING SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT WILL VOTE TO DETERMINE WHICH SLATES HAVE SUBMITTED REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND HENCE ELIGIBLE FOR FIRST POSTING AS PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 14 OF ELECTION LAW. THESE LISTS MUST BE POSTED BY MIDNIGHT JULY 1 AT NA BUILDING AND SAIGON CITY HALL. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS IS PERIOD OF FIVE DAYS ALLOWED FOR COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES'

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QUALIFICATIONS. THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL MUST REVIEW COMPLAINTS BETWEEN JULY 7 AND JULY 15. BETWEEN JULY 15 AND JULY 19 THE ASSEMBLY WILL REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S REPORT AND CANDIDATES AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FILED CAN PLEAD THEIR CASE BEFORE NA SPECIAL COMMITTEE. BY JULY 19 NA MUST TAKE A FINAL VOTE ON POSTING NAMES OF CANDIDATES A SECOND TIME--THAT IS TO SAY MAKE A DEFINITIVE DETERMINATION OF WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN AND WHO IS NOT.

BUNKER
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 12:43 P.M